United Nations A/72/866

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 May 2018

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19
Sustainable development

Letter dated 7 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Avaza Declaration of the international forum "The Great Silk Road — towards the New Frontiers of Development", held in the Avaza national tourist area in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 2 May 2018 (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

18-08041 (E) 180518 210518

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 7 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Avaza Declaration of the international forum "The Great Silk Road — towards the New Frontiers of Development"

We, the participants in the international forum "The Great Silk Road — towards the New Frontiers of Development", held in the Avaza national tourist area, Turkmenistan, on 2 May 2018,

Reaffirming our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as defined in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted on 25 September 2015 at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular those goals that are directly relevant to the development of sustainable transport and ensuring its safety and accessibility, and to concern for the environment,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/213, entitled "The role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development", adopted on 19 December 2014, resolution 70/197, entitled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors", adopted on 22 December 2015, and resolution 72/212, entitled "Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", adopted on 20 December 2017,

Recognizing the importance of high-level international events to support the development of transport and the stability of transit corridors at the international level, such as the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, held on 3 and 4 September 2014, the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport held in Ashgabat on 26 and 27 November 2016, and the high-level international conference held in Geneva on 22 February 2017,

Recognizing the advantages of multimodal transport as a significant component in a balanced transport system, especially its efficiency in terms of energy and costs, lack of congestion and contribution to reducing transport and logistics costs,

Emphasizing also the role of inland water transport in the sustainable functioning of national transport and cross-border systems and its contribution to social and economic development, including landlocked developing countries,

Aware also that the objective of international transport strategy is now the creation of modern transport architecture designed to address the key tasks of the international community in the twenty-first century, in service to millions of people around the world, by preserving and developing the resources of the planet,

Appreciating the current work on the establishment of a sustainable transport system carried out at the United Nations by its Member States, including international projects to eliminate administrative barriers, rehabilitate and provide support for international corridors and ports, and reduce the environmental damage caused by exhaust emissions, and national transport strategies and projects to develop inland water transport infrastructure,

Conscious that the aforementioned challenges in the sector should also be addressed at the national, regional and global levels,

Considering the links between different modes of transport in the context of the development of multimodal transport,

Acknowledging the role of modern technologies, innovations, the "single window" principle and digitalization in ensuring navigation safety and better logistics integration,

Acknowledging the need to join forces to utilize the significant, still untapped, potential of the transport sector and thereby gain significant political support at the highest level,

Convinced that the outcome of this Forum should bring practical value in terms of safety, environmental aspects, logistics and benefits for the economy,

Hereby *endorse* the following objectives and actions and invite countries and all parties concerned to consider their implementation:

(a) To build up a regulatory framework that is intended to increase the efficiency of safe, environmentally sound and economically efficient transport by promoting an appropriate balance among all transport modes and thus using it as a significant contributor to national, regional and international development;

(b) To address the challenges of sustainable development of mobility by supporting intergovernmental multi-disciplinary cooperation in the field of transport and transport-related issues and by placing due emphasis on the importance of mobilizing resources and aligning financing flows with sustainable development objectives;

(c) To encourage investment in the sector aimed at building and modernizing the infrastructure of international routes and ports and fostering innovation and the principles that ensure resilience to climate change;

(d) To ensure an appropriate balance among all transport modes, streamlining cargo flows and promoting the development of multimodal transport;

(e) To take the necessary steps to raise the profile of historical transportation routes, in particular the Great Silk Road, as they offer additional opportunities to enhance the mobility of people, to satisfy their yearning to visit other countries and to communicate with people from other nations, which has a strong impact on the discovery of new tourist routes and the formation of personal contacts that contribute to peace and security.

The participants in the Forum express their appreciation to the Government of Turkmenistan for its hospitality and the excellent organization of the Forum.

Turkmenbashi, Avaza national tourist area

2 May 2018